

- Belmont Recreation Commission
- Minutes for the Sept. 23, 2008 Meeting
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- Present: June Howell, Lee Slap, Stephanie King, Bill McKenney, Betsy Lipson,
Neal Fay, Jennifer Floyd, Noreen Millane
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- Meeting began at 7:05 pm
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- 1. John Madden, former operator of the rink snack bar, requested that we reopen the bid at a lower rate, suggesting \$1500 per year. He requested the lower rates due to the high cost of workers' comp. insurance (\$1000), liability insurance, stock and equipment as well as the brief season. The rink doesn't open until mid Nov. and closes the second week of March. Additional financial details have again been requested.
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- Additional discussion centered on whether to reopen the bid process with lower amounts. As the last request did not have any responses, the decision was made to reopen the request for bids with \$2000 per year for 3 years.
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- Additional consideration was given to reinstalling vending machines as an option. Betsy requested that if we move forward with this option, we make every effort to include healthy options similar to the schools.
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- An additional option of using the space for a skate rental and sharpening service was discussed. Betsy was going to check with the Watertown rink operator to see if they had any interest in bidding on a Belmont location.
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- 2. Program report

- a. Dolphins - Megan has been retained as head coach again.

- b. Summer Programs - Bill has given an overall 'B' rating with weather issues again being a factor.

- c. Youth Soccer Night was held on 9/22.

- d. Rink fund raiser to be held 11/14 to benefit the Belmont Food Pantry.

- e. A Speaker and Sound system is still needed for the rink - BYH may be asked to assist.
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- 3. Summer kids program staffing was discussed in detail. Staffing choices are based on the summer program director's experience. A concern to some of the committee was the wide variances on the staffing levels. This needs to be followed carefully once the hiring begins again in the spring. The summer program subcommittee will include this as part of their analysis.
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- 4. Rink

- a. Youth Hockey will use the rink 18 hours weekly and have more home games scheduled.
- b. Ads - old ads that have not been renewed will be removed ASAP. With the economy, revenue from new/continuing ads may be uneven.
- c. Rental rates. An increase to raise rates was decided by a 3-2 vote . BYH will pay \$155/hour (from \$150), returning private groups \$190 (a one year grace period as many groups have already set their rates) and new private groups \$200/hour. A vote of 5-0 confirmed the new rates.
- c. Standard invoicing and collection procedures to be in effect for all renters.
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- 5. Town Field Project is going well. We will need to monitor the protective nets (for the baseball field) that we were told would be installed.
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- 6. Budget. We are projecting an increase in revenue of \$22000 and will likely be faced with a forced expense cut of 5% (\$31000) leaving a net shortfall of \$9000.
- FY07/08 had revenues of \$662,000 and expenses of \$615,000 (with expenses being under budget). June to provide year to year comparisons for revenue and expenses on an ongoing basis.
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- 7. Scholarship policy. Partial payments will be accepted on a case by case basis. The committee is reviewing a new policy. Stephanie to check local towns for their guidelines.
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- 8. Belmont 2nd Soccer's request to use Chenery after 5:00 is pending due to the potential conflicts with softball.
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- 9. Permanent subcommittees were discussed - Pools, Rink, Marketing & PR, Summer Programs, Permitting & Other Issues. Committee members were requested to review responsibilities for each committee and commit to one. Discussion pending.
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- 10. Selectman's meeting on Sept. 28. We have been requested to attend and discuss the number of committee members and potential merger with the Belmont Youth Comm. It will be stated that we need members that will be able to focus on the recreation committee as well as work on the subcommittees.
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- 11. Neal introduced a new revenue opportunity to charge \$15 per dog for a Goose Buster pass. This was voted 5-0 in favor, to begin Oct. 15th.
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- Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.
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